in the Russian expansion toward the Pacific, however, and toward further encroachment on China, it was of great significance.

While Russia was taking territory from the Empire in the extreme North, in the extreme South France was pursuing a policy which was eventually to lead to the loss by China of its tributary territory in Indo-China. In response to the diplomacy of a missionary bishop, the French, in the latter part of the eighteenth century, had assisted in restoring a king of Cochin-China to his throne and in the conquest, by this same ruler, of Tongking. In the eighteen forties and fifties, France intervened on behalf of persecuted French Roman Catholic missionaries and their flocks. In 1858 Spain and France joined in further naval and military operations, the Spaniards finding a cause for war in the execution of a Spanish missionary bishop. In 1862 a treaty was signed which granted religious freedom to Roman Catholics$_r$ opened three ports to French and Spanish merchants, and ceded to France three provinces in Cochin-China.

INTERNAL DISORDERS

The weakness of China against her foes from the Occident was both increased by and in |urn facilitated the rise and progress of serious domestic rebellions.

*OThe chief of these was due in part to the influx of new religious ideas through Christian missionaries from the West. The figure around whom it centered, Hung Hsiu-ch'uan, was a Hakka, a native of Kwangtung. In his twenties, while in Canton as a candidate for the civil service examinations, he appears—if we may trust the narrative of a cousin and intimate friend—to have been given some books which contained a summary of the teachings of Protestant missionaries. Some time

afterward he was attacked by a severe illness in the course of which, in visions, he was taken to a large_and luminous place^where he was cleansed, given a hew heart,an9 commissioned by an^oHlnan to exterminate the~demons wEo^were leading mankind away from his—the old mari[y]s^^^vicej Several yearTIater,m i^[:]! 37TIung"seems to have had his attention again called to the books -which had been given him in Canton. In perusing these he believed that he found the key to his visions—that the old man was God, the demons idols, and that he was under obligation to restore the worship of this